

REMARKS

Claims 1-42, 51, 52, 54-58, 60-62, and 64-83 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 72 and 73 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-25, 43-50, 53, 59, and 63, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 78-81 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 26-39, 41, 42, 51, 52, 54-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-71, and 74-77, under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,555,243 to Flepp et al. (hereinafter Flepp).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Flepp fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Independent claims 26 and 77 have been amended to recite that the hollow body has an inner radially exposed surface, and an outer radially exposed surface, that an inner layer provides the inner radially exposed surface, the outer layer provides the outer radially exposed surface, and that the inner and outer layers comprise a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer.

In contrast to that independently set forth in claims 26 and 77, although Flepp discloses a layer (c) made of a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer, that layer (c) does not provide either an inner radially exposed surface or an outer radially exposed surface of the hollow body; instead the adhesion promoting layer (c) is always disposed radially interior of the inner and outer radially exposed surfaces.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Flepp fails to anticipate independent claims 26 and 77. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate the claims dependent therefrom.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 40 and 67 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Flepp.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Flepp fails to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, Flepp is deficient. The Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to vary the amount of compatibilizer in the mixture to come up with an optimized value through routine experimentation. However, such a modification of Flepp would still fail to cure the above-noted deficiency therein.

Accordingly, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Flepp as suggested by the Examiner, any such modification would still fail to include all of the elements claimed and thus, would fail to render obvious Applicants' claims.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

New claims 78-83 have been added. New independent claims 78 and 81 separately set forth that the inner and outer layers provide the inner and outer radially exposed surfaces of the hollow body and are comprised of a mixture of different polyamide-homopolymers and a compatibilizer. In contrast, as discussed above, Flepp's layer (c) is always radially interior of each one of the inner and outer radially exposed surfaces of the hollow body.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 5, 2007